Meeting of the Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board

IRRRB Administration Building Eveleth, Minnesota

Monday, February 22, 2016 11:00 a.m.

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MEETING OF THE IRON RANGE RESOURCES AND REHABILITATION BOARD

IRRRB Administration Building Eveleth, Minnesota Monday, February 22, 2016 – 11:00 a.m.

AGENDA

- 1) Roll Call
- 2) Approval of December 21, 2015, Meeting Minutes See Exhibit A
- 3) Commissioner's Comments
- 4) KMDA, Inc.
- 5) Mining Reinvestment Project
 - a. Magnetation LLC
- 6) Natural Resources Research Institute Pilot-Scale Demonstration of Ilmenite Processing Technology
- 7) FY16 Public Works Stimulus Projects
- 8) Giants Ridge New Amenities Proposal
- 9) Iron Range School Collaboration Fund
- 10) Other

KMDA, Inc.

404 2nd Avenue Bovey, Minnesota 55709

Bank Participation Loan

| Project Location: 404 2 nd Avenue Bovey, Minnesota 55709 Principal(s): Derek Vekich and Mike Vekich KMDA is expanding their hunting and fishing product manufacturing operation with the purchase of Baker Tools, currently located in Pennsylvania. Baker Tools will be relocated to a new facility to be constructed in Bovey to house the existing KMDA operation and Baker Tools. Market Opportunity: The acquisition of Baker Tools will add 70 new customers (including Walmart) to KMDA's existing 200. It also opens up more markets on the east and west coasts. Project Investment: Woodland Bank- two loans \$375,000 to purchase Baker Tool, 7 year term \$80,000 to construct building, 20 year term IRRB – two bank participation loans at formula rate \$375,000 to purchase Baker Tool, 7 year term \$80,000 to construct building, 20 year term Bank or ARDC To fund working capital Owner's equity cash \$50,000 to purchase real estate \$50,000 to purchase equipment | Applicant: | KMDA, Inc. | | | | |
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| \$50,000 to purchase real estate | | ~ . | 500,000 | | | |
| | | | 300,000 | | | |
| 400,000 to paremase equipment | | | | | | |
| \$150,000 for working capital | | | | | | |
| \$250,000 for construction | | , <u> </u> | | | | |
| TOTAL \$1,560,000 | | , | \$1,560,000 | | | |
| | | | | | | |
| Jobs: 4 Planned New 5 Retained | Jobs: | | | | | |
| Wages \$12.50 - \$20.00 per hour plus benefits | | Wages \$12.50 - \$20.00 per hour plus benefits | | | | |

| Collateral: | A shared first position on the equipment, inventory, accounts receivable and the new building. |
|--|---|
| Business History: | KMDA, Inc. was formed in 2002 in Bovey, MN by brothers Derek and Mike Vekich. The company manufactures hunting and fishing products. Customers include sporting goods retailers in all 48 contiguous states and 5 countries. In addition to the products KMDA has developed, they have increased their products through the purchase of other manufacturers, such as: Inhaler, Lakco, Croxton Ice, Dixie Dancer, Opti Tackle, Vibe and Angler's Choice. |
| Past IRRRB History: | A previous Bank Participation Loan of \$43,000 was paid off in 2010. |
| Contingencies: | All other financing must be confirmed. Construction is subject to prevailing-wage requirements. |
| Technical Advisory Committee Recommendation: | Approval recommended February 16, 2016. |
| Funding Authorization: | Douglas J. Johnson Economic Protection Trust Fund: This project is authorized under the provisions of the Douglas J. Johnson Economic Protection Trust Fund Act (Minnesota Statutes sections 298.291-298.298) pertaining to expenditures of Douglas J. Johnson Economic Protection Trust Fund monies for economic development projects in that these statutes authorize small business development loans to private enterprises for the purposes of job creation and economic development within the Taconite Assistance Area defined in Minnesota Statutes Section 273.1341. |

Mining Reinvestment Project

Magnetation LLC



P.O. Box 441 4261 Highway 53 South Eveleth, Minnesota 55734-0441 (218)735-3000 • 800-765-5043 Fax: (218)735-3047

To: Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board Members

From: Mark Phillips

Commissioner

Date: February 22, 2016

Re: MAGNETATION LLC MINING REINVESTMENT FUND PROJECTS - \$736,349

Magnetation LLC is eligible for a rebate of \$736,349 subject to the company providing a minimum match of \$736,349 for a minimum total project cost of \$1,472,698.

The Magnetation LLC Mining Reinvestment Fund Review Committee completed its review on December 9, 2015, and unanimously approved submitting the following project.

Project 1 – Plant 4 Flotation Circuit (Bank 1) - \$1,540,966

This project will involve the purchase and installation of flotation bank #1 in Plant 4. This flotation bank will process WHIMS (Wet High Intensity Magnetic Separator) concentrate. The flotation is performed at a neutral pH of 7, which makes the process environmentally friendly and safe. The flotation cells allow for higher magnetic circuit recoveries – to produce iron ore concentrate and simultaneously reduce the silica percentage. This factor enhances the product's marketability and enables the plant to effectively process feed from a variety of diverse resources.

Minnesota Statutes 298.227, authorize grants to Minnesota's taconite producers for workforce development and associated public facility improvement, or for acquisition of plant and stationary mining equipment and facilities for the producer or for research and development in Minnesota on new mining, or taconite, iron, or steel production technology, but only if the producer provides a matching expenditure equal to the amount of the distribution to be used for the same purpose. These funds are held in the Mining Reinvestment Fund.

Effective for proposals for expenditures of money from the fund beginning May 26, 2007, the commissioner may not release the funds before the next scheduled meeting of the board. If a proposed expenditure is not approved by the board, the funds must be deposited in the Taconite Environmental Protection Fund under sections 298.222 to 298.225.

Natural Resources Research Institute



P.O. Box 441 4261 Highway 53 South Eveleth, Minnesota 55734-0441 (218)735-3000 • 800-765-5043 Fax: (218)735-3047

To: Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board

From: Mark Phillips Commissioner

Date: February 15, 2016

Re: Natural Resources Research Institute - \$300,000 Grant for Pilot-Scale

Demonstration of Ilmenite Processing Technology

As the attached memo further details, the University of Minnesota Duluth's Natural Resources Research Institute (NRRI) has requested a \$300,000 grant from the IRRRB to match \$300,000 from the University to fund a pilot-scale demonstration of ilmenite processing technology. If successful, this technology could be used to develop the Longnose ilmenite deposit located a few miles northeast of the city of Hoyt Lakes. Successful development of this resource could diversify Minnesota's mining industry to deliver high value products and position Minnesota as a strategic supplier to new markets.

Background

Ilmenite is an iron–titanium compound found in a number of deposits located immediately south of the Mesabi iron range. Most of these deposits are located relatively close to the surface and would be easily amenable to open-pit mining with minimal stripping of overburden. Titanium is a metal used mostly in jet engines, airframes and space and missile applications. In powdered form, titanium is used as a white pigment for paints, paper, plastics, rubber and other materials. The table below displays a dollar-per-ton value comparison between the average iron ore product (pellets) and various products derived from mining and processing ilmenite.

| Product | 2015 Price (Dollar per Ton) |
|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Average Iron Ore Product | 84 |
| Titanium Mineral Concentrate | 110 |
| Titanium Dioxide (Pigment Grade)** | 3,090 |
| Titanium Sponge Metal | 9,930 |
| Iron Oxide (Pigment Grade) | 1,650 |
| Magnesium Metal | 4,740 |

**Note: Year 2013 value

The difficulty in processing the region's ilmenite deposits has been removal of impurities such as magnesium oxide, which has stood in the way of further refining the ore for higher value applications.

NRRI, in partnership with a Canadian company, Process Research Ortech (PRO), has identified a proprietary technology that allows them to overcome these limitations and produce an ultra-pure titanium dioxide product that can be directly used as a high value pigment or alternatively used as a feedstock for titanium metal production.

Research to Date

NRRI secured 50 tons of ilmenite ore from the Longnose deposit and conducted mineral processing testing at its Coleraine Minerals Research Laboratory (CMRL) over the years 1992 – 2002. By 2014, they had developed a mineral processing flowsheet that allowed them to conduct a prefeasibility bench test program. In the time between the completion of this test work and acquiring permission to begin hydrometallurgical testing at PRO, PRO sold 51% of the titanium testing technology to a third party which was able to complete small scale testing of the concentrate produced at CMRL. The results of this study indicated good initial success but the need for pilot-scale work.

Future Testing and Timeline

The goals of the current proposal are to generate a bulk sample for pilot hydrometallurgical testing as well as to improve the iron-to-titanium ratio in the concentrate through mineral processing research. The \$600,000 will allow the preparation of 3 tons of concentrate and subsequent separation. The time required for this work at CMRL is approximately 6 months to prepare the concentrate and an additional 4-6 months to complete pilot demonstration of separation techniques to improve the iron-to-titanium ratio. Upon successful completion of the pilot-scale study, it is recommended that full feasibility costing \$1.5 – 2.5 million be completed. A full feasibility study will include the following components:

- Full characterization of the ore body and surrounding region
- Characterization of impacts and controls
- Confirmation of processes
- Engagement of engineering and planning consultants
- Investment modeling and economic analysis
- Preparations for investor attraction

Potential for Ilmenite Processing at Existing Iron Processing Facilities

Utilization of existing mineral processing assets in the region to allow processing of ilmenite ore into titanium oxide is not immediately feasible without extensive modifications. Alternative technology, such as the ITmk3 technology used at Mesabi Nugget or the NuIron Reduced Iron process developed by NRRI could potentially be used to produce a high purity iron nugget as well as a high-titanium slag. The initial pilot-scale work will better define such opportunities.

Intellectual Property Concerns

The ilmenite ore processing and concentrate production flowsheets developed over the past years is the intellectual property (IP) of the University of Minnesota, although it is the practice of known art and not patentable in and of itself but rather enabling technology which will support hydrometallurgical technology that is proprietary to PRO and another external party. As such, any joint development between parties to adapt the technology to Minnesota ilmenite will be covered by future legal agreements which deal with licensing, royalties and other IP matters.

University of Minnesota

Duluth Campus

Natural Resources Research InstituteOffice of the Director

5013 Miller Trunk Highway Duluth, Minnesota 55811-1442 218-788-2697

Request for Funding

4 February,

2016

To: Mark Phillips, Commissioner – IRRRB

Brian Herman, Vice President for Research – University of Minnesota

Andrea Schokker, Executive Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs – University of Minnesota

Duluth

From: Rolf Weberg, Director – Natural Resources Research Institute

Re: Pilot of Titanium Recovery from Minnesota Ilmenite

The Minnesota mining region possesses vast quantities of mineral resources ranging from iron ore to non-ferrous metals. While copper/nickel non-ferrous metals have driven much of the recent exploration/development activity in Minnesota, the state also has favorable geology for hosting valuable deposits of other metallic minerals such as ilmenite. Ilmenite is an iron-titanium oxide mineral found in significant deposits, many easily accessible in existing mining areas, that can be a strategic source of titanium dioxide for pigment production and titanium metal recovery. Past difficulty in processing Minnesota ilmenite deposits has been associated with impurities, such as magnesium oxide, in the ore. Successful development of this resource could diversify Minnesota's mining industry, deliver high value products and position Minnesota as a strategic supplier to new markets.

The University of Minnesota Duluth Natural Resources Research Institute (NRRI) has identified a process technology that overcomes the challenges posed by the presence of magnesium oxide to allow successful processing of Minnesota's ilmenite resources. This process has been under development by NRRI partner Process Research Ortech (PRO) located in Mississauga, Ontario, Canada. It involves an atmospheric mixed chloride leaching technology that produces an ultra-pure titanium dioxide product that can be directly used as a high value pigment or alternatively used as a feedstock for titanium metal production. In addition, clean separation of magnesium and iron products can also be realized.

NRRI secured over 50 tons of material from the Longnose titanium deposit in northeastern Minnesota and has developed concentrates to be processed using the PRO technology. Lab-scale testing of an NRRI ilmenite concentrate was performed under confidential agreement by a third-party PRO customer. The conclusions from this study included digestion efficiencies between 89 to 91%, iron-to-titanium ratios of 1.36 to 1.47, and high magnesium levels in the concentrate. It was concluded that this processing scheme shows very promising initial success and supports feasibility demonstrations.

The next step to continue development of this resource is a pilot-scale demonstration. NRRI will generate a 3-ton bulk sample of concentrate for pilot-scale hydrometallurgical testing using the PRO technology to reproduce the earlier results and attempt to improve the iron-to-titanium ratio. This work will require \$600,000 in funding to cover NRRI and development partner costs. Assuming that this pilot-scale prefeasibility study is successful, a full feasibility study will follow to provide the final basic data set to be used to attract investment.

NRRI does not have the funding to pursue the next phase of development. In light of the needs of the mining industry to diversify and generate higher value products, this investment is timely and necessary. In previous discussions, verbal support has been given for the following funding scheme:

UMN OVPR \$150,000 UMD EVCAA \$150,000 IRRRB \$300,000

This memo is meant to confirm this commitment to allow NRRI to pursue this work on behalf of the State of Minnesota and in keeping with the University of Minnesota's land grant status and mission.

I look forward to your confirmation and to working with you to deliver this opportunity to Minnesota.

Best Regards,

Rolf

FY16 Public Works Stimulus Projects



P.O. Box 441 4261 Highway 53 South Eveleth, Minnesota 55734-0441 (218)735-3000 • 800-765-5043

Fax: (218)735-3047

To: Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board

From: Mark Phillips

Commissioner

Date: February 22, 2016

Re: FY16 PUBLIC WORKS STIMULUS PROJECTS

PURPOSE

The Public Works Stimulus Grant Program provides funding to assist cities and townships in funding shovel ready public works projects to support community and economic development. State law requires half of the agency's economic development fund to be invested in infrastructure projects in local communities.

ECONOMIC IMPACT*

FY 16 public works stimulus grants 15

IRRRB investment \$2,388,188

Total public/private investment \$37,380,662

Leverage 14.6 to 1

City of Aitkin

Grant Amount: \$99,000

Water, sewer, road and site work for the construction of a new 1,245 sq. ft. dental clinic. This project will provide new development, increase in tax base, and 4 additional jobs in the community of Aitkin. The project is projected to create 5 construction jobs and 4 permanent jobs.

| <u>USES</u> | | | SOURCES | | |
|------------------|-------|-----------|----------------|-------|-----------|
| Site Development | | \$114,294 | IRRRB | | \$99,000 |
| Building | | 600,325 | Private (SBA) | | 639,842 |
| A&E | | 21,223 | | | |
| Contingency | | 3,000 | | | |
| | TOTAL | \$738,842 | | TOTAL | \$738,842 |

City of Aurora

Grant Amount: \$250,000

Water, sewer, storm sewer, and road reconstruction for the Maple Drive redevelopment project. The city of Aurora spent \$3.7 million in 2015 as part of citywide street improvements and is moving forward with an additional \$1.4 million in utility/infrastructure/road improvements for 2016. The Maple Drive reconstruction project is projected to create 10 construction jobs.

| <u>USES</u> | | | SOURCES | | |
|-----------------------|-------|-------------|----------------|-------|-------------|
| Street reconstruction | | \$1,003,600 | IRRRB | | \$250,000 |
| A&E | | 211,000 | City | | 1,204,600 |
| Contingency | | 240,000 | | | |
| | TOTAL | \$1,454,600 | | TOTAL | \$1,454,600 |

City of Chisholm

Grant Amount: \$250,000

Building efficiency and handicap accessibility upgrades and remodel of the city hall. The city of Chisholm has a new business tenant, which requires 1,000 sq. ft. of office space. The Chisholm City Hall is in need of utility upgrades to accommodate the new business tenant. The project is projected to create 3 construction jobs.

| <u>USES</u> | | | SOURCES | | |
|-------------------|-------|-----------|----------------|-------|-----------|
| Building upgrades | | \$425,000 | IRRRB | | \$250,000 |
| | | | City | | 175,000 |
| | TOTAL | \$425,000 | | TOTAL | \$425,000 |

City of Cook

Grant Amount: \$103,000

Water, sewer and road reconstruction for Vermilion Blvd. and 5th Street. The Cook Hospital and Nursing Home has a 6 million dollar shovel ready expansion project, and is working with the city collaboratively to address the reconstruction of city streets, which impact the hospital. The project is projected to create 40 construction jobs.

| <u>USES</u> | | | SOURCES | | |
|-----------------------|-------|-------------|----------------|-------|-------------|
| Street reconstruction | | 161,455 | IRRRB | | \$103,000 |
| A&E | | 29,062 | City | | 103,662 |
| Contingency | | 16,145 | Hospital | | 6,000,000 |
| Hospital expansion | | 6,000,000 | | | |
| | TOTAL | \$6.206.662 | | TOTAL | \$6,206,662 |

City of Crosby

Grant Amount: \$250.000

Sewer, water and road reconstruction across 10 city blocks in a Northeast section of Crosby. The city of Crosby has a shovel ready comprehensive housing rehabilitation and public infrastructure project, which has partner funding from DEED and PFA. The project has been bid and will begin in the Spring of 2016. The project is projected to create 17 construction jobs.

| <u>USES</u> | | SOURCES | | |
|------------------------|-------------|----------------|-------|-------------|
| Water, sewer and roads | 1,750,000 | IRRRB | | \$250,000 |
| A&E | 350,000 | PFA | | 1,850,000 |
| Build Rehab | 435,100 | DEED | | 435,100 |
| TOTAL | \$2,535,100 | | TOTAL | \$2,535,100 |

City of Ely

Grant Amount: \$250,000

Water, sewer and street reconstruction of several city streets to include: Conan/Harvey Alley, 5th Avenue East and 6th Avenue East. This citywide street water/sewer project is shovel ready and is planned to begin in June 2016. The project is expected to create 7 construction jobs.

| <u>USES</u> | | SOURCES | | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|-------|-------------|
| Water, sewer and roads | \$831,160 | IRRRB | | \$250,000 |
| A & E | 83,116 | CDBG | | 85,000 |
| Contingency | 149,724 | City | | 729,000 |
| TOTA | AL \$1,064,000 | | TOTAL | \$1,064,000 |

City of Gilbert

Grant Amount: \$40,000

Soil correction and site development for a new building for Northstar Specialized Services (NHS). NHS provides services in Northeastern Minnesota to persons having developmental disabilities and persons with mental illness. The proposed facility in Gilbert would provide residential based services for the elderly. The project is expected to create 12 permanent jobs and 2 construction jobs.

| <u>USES</u> | | | SOURCES | | |
|-------------------|-------|-----------|---------|-------|-----------|
| Site Development | | \$30,000 | IRRRB | | \$40,000 |
| Utility Extension | | 10,000 | Private | | 300,000 |
| Building | | 300,000 | | | |
| | TOTAL | \$340,000 | | TOTAL | \$340,000 |

City of Grand Marais Grant Amount: \$100,000

Water, sewer, road and site development for a new public works facility. The new 14,500 sq. ft. facility will be located off of Highway 61. The former current public works garage will be removed and will make way for a DNR planned project to improve access on Lake Superior, a \$2.2 million project. The new road and utility extension will open access to available undeveloped commercial property for future development. The project is expected to create 25 construction jobs.

| <u>USES</u> | | | SOURCES | | |
|------------------------|-------|-------------|----------------|-------|-------------|
| Water, sewer and roads | | 850,000 | IRRRB | | \$100,000 |
| Buildings | | 2,250,000 | City | | 3,750,000 |
| A&E | | 300,000 | | | |
| Contingency | | 450,000 | | | |
| 7 | ГОТАL | \$3,850,000 | | TOTAL | \$3,850,000 |

City of Grand Rapids Grant Amount: \$100,000

Sanitary sewer improvements and road reconstruction for 5th Street North and 8th Avenue Northeast. The proposed improvement project is located in the City's Central Business District and also near two highways with adjacent developed and undeveloped commercial properties. The improvements will provide updated service to the existing business owners. This project is shovel ready and will be bid in March 2016. The project is expected to create 23 construction jobs.

| <u>USES</u> | | | SOURCES | | |
|-----------------------|-------|-------------|----------------|-------|-------------|
| Street Reconstruction | | 2,790,366 | IRRRB | | \$100,000 |
| A&E | | 730,495 | City (GO Bond) | | 1,097,968 |
| | | | City | | 816,534 |
| | | | SRTS Grant | | 261,000 |
| | | | MSAS | | 745,359 |
| | | | FHWA | | 500,000 |
| | TOTAL | \$3,520,861 | | TOTAL | \$3,520,861 |

City of Hoyt Lakes

Grant Amount: \$250,000

Upgrades to the Primary and Secondary Clarifiers, Control Structure, and Site Dewatering System at the wastewater treatment facility. The city of Hoyt Lakes is working with Public Facilities Authority and the MPCA to provide funding for improvements to their wastewater treatment facility. The project is expected to create 14 construction jobs.

| <u>USES</u> | | SOURCES | | |
|----------------------------|-------------|----------------|-------|-------------|
| Treatment Facility Upgrade | \$2,065,708 | IRRRB | | \$250,000 |
| A&E | 95,000 | PFA | | 1,815,708 |
| Contingency | 50,000 | City | | 145,000 |
| TOTAL | \$2,210,708 | | TOTAL | \$2,210,708 |

City of Marble

Grant Amount: \$163,000

The project consists of replacement of waterline at five locations throughout the city. The existing infrastructure is deteriorated and has numerous breaks, which is limiting the capacity for the city to provide households with quality drinking water.

| <u>USES</u> | | SOURCES | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------|----------------|-------|-----------|
| Water & road reconstruction | \$585,657 | IRRRB | | \$163,000 |
| A&E | 88,300 | City | | 290,557 |
| Contingency | 29,600 | IRRRB (FY15) | | 250,000 |
| TOTAL | \$703,557 | | TOTAL | \$703,557 |

City of Taconite

Grant Amount: \$120,000

Water and sewer line casing pipe placement under Highway 169. MNDOT is expanding a 1.55 mile section of Highway 169 adjacent to Taconite from two-lane to four-lane and the city of Taconite would like to perform updates to their existing infrastructure that runs under Highway 169. The project is expected to create 62 construction jobs.

| <u>USES</u> | | SOURCES | | |
|------------------------|-------------|----------------|-------|-------------|
| Infrastructure | \$150,000 | IRRRB | | \$120,000 |
| Hwy 169 reconstruction | 9,500,000 | City | | 30,000 |
| | | MNDOT | | 9,500,000 |
| TOTAL | \$9,650,000 | | TOTAL | \$9,650,000 |

City of Two Harbors

Grant Amount: \$100,000

Infrastructure, site development and construction of a new Two Harbors campground facility. The city recently expanded its municipal campground to 34 campsites to accommodate the high demand from tourism. With the increased number of winter campers the proposed facility is designed for year-round camping. The project is expected to create 5 construction jobs.

| USES | OURCES |
|------|--------|
|------|--------|

| TOTAL | \$758,000 | • | TOTAL | \$758,000 |
|--------------------------|-----------|-------|-------|-----------|
| A&E | 58,000 | City | | 658,000 |
| Site work & construction | \$700,000 | IRRRB | | \$100,000 |

City of Virginia

Grant Amount: \$213,188

Water, sewer and site work for the construction of a new 9,000 sq. ft. facility. The City of Virginia is developing lots on the former Seppi Brothers site on Silver Lake in their downtown, to make the site ready for the expansion of an existing business. The project is expected to create 20 permanent jobs and 23 construction jobs.

| <u>USES</u> | | SOURCES | | |
|----------------------------|-------------|----------------|-------|-------------|
| Infrastructure & site work | \$373,332 | IRRRB | | \$213,188 |
| Building | 1,800,000 | City | | 50,000 |
| Equipment | 850,000 | USDA | | \$500,000 |
| A&E | 300,000 | Private | | 2,760,144 |
| Contingency | 200,000 | | | |
| TOTAL | \$3,523,332 | | TOTAL | \$3,523,332 |

City of Winton

Grant Amount: \$100,000

Infrastructure, site work, and construction of a new city hall/community center for the city of Winton. The project is expected to create 3 construction jobs.

| <u>USES</u> | | SOURCES | | |
|----------------------------|-----------|----------------|-------|-----------|
| Infrastructure & site work | \$100,000 | IRRRB | | \$100,000 |
| Building | 275,000 | Winton | | 300,000 |
| A&E | 25,000 | | | |
| TOTAL | \$400,000 | | TOTAL | \$400,000 |

Giants Ridge New Amenities Proposal



P.O. Box 441 4261 Highway 53 South Eveleth, Minnesota 55734-0441 (218)735-3000 • 800-765-5043 Fax: (218)735-3047

To: Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board

From: Mark Phillips Commissioner

Date: February 15, 2016

Re: Giants Ridge New Amenities Proposal - \$500,000 Recreation Tax Use

The Giants Ridge Recreation Area (GRRA) Tax, which was implemented into law in 2010, has to date collected \$596,000. Average annual revenue from the tax is approximately \$130,000. None of the tax fund has been allocated. The bulk of the tax revenue is generated by the activities owned and operated by the IRRRB (golf, ski, food and beverage); a smaller portion of the tax revenues are generated by lodging properties within the GRRA (Lodge, Villas).

The tax may pay costs for the construction, renovation, improvement, expansion, and maintenance of the public recreational facilities located within the boundaries of those portions of the GRRA that lie within the city limits of Biwabik.

A Giants Ridge Amenities Committee began work in August 2015 to develop a recommendation for the use of these tax dollars. The committee was comprised of facility stakeholders, Giants Ridge and IRRRB staff. The committee is proposing to use \$500,000 of the tax balance.

Project 1 – Trails - \$250,000

<u>Purpose Built Mountain Bike Trails:</u> 5 miles of purpose built beginner and intermediate mountain bike trails, both single track and flow.

<u>Multi-Use Nature Trails:</u> 1.5 miles of looped trails interconnecting the lodging properties with the recreation facilities.

Project 2 – Climbing Wall - \$150,000

A 30-35' foot climbing wall at the mountain base.

Project 3 – Kids' Playground - \$100,000

An adventure experience for kids, located at the mountain base. A natural playground (as opposed to a traditional playground), will be innovative and environmentally sensitive, allowing kids to experience natural play that may incorporate embankments slides built into hills, realistic caves, and other outdoor elements.

Iron Range School Collaboration Fund



P.O. Box 441 4261 Highway 53 South Eveleth, Minnesota 55734-0441 (218)735-3000 • 800-765-5043 Fax: (218)735-3047

To: Iron Range Resources and Rehabilitation Board Members

From: Mark Phillips, Commissioner

Date: February 22, 2016

Re: Iron Range School Collaboration Grant Program

The Iron Range School Collaboration Grant Program supports regional multi-district collaborative initiatives that result in increased availability and access to high quality education and training for students, teachers and communities within the IRRRB service area.

A small group of the IRRR Board (as designated at the October 30, 2015, IRRR Board meeting) met on February 16, 2016, to review program guidelines and make funding recommendations for expenditures from the account.

The group recommended that the funding be bifurcated into two sections:

- 1. Bricks & Mortar Projects:
 - Partnership with one additional school district
 - The grant program funding for bricks & mortar is capped at \$2,000,000 annual contributions based upon approval of voter referendum.
 - Evidence of new and increased curriculum opportunities for students
- 2. Innovative Academic Programming:
 - Partnership with one additional school district or NHED member college
 - Programming examples include but are not limited to: ALI, EIP, STEM initiatives, & Early Childhood
 - Evidence of new and increased curriculum opportunities for students

The projects that meet program guidelines are being presented in 2 resolutions. The first resolution for consideration includes three projects that fall under Bricks & Mortar and they are:

- 1. \$2 million annually for the remaining years of the school bond payments for the St Louis County School District
- 2. \$500,000 annually for ten years to the Mesabi East School District for school bond payments

3. \$1.76 million on average for the new Mountain Iron Buhl School District, based upon approval of a voter referendum

The second resolution for consideration include two projects that exemplify Innovative Academic Programming and they are:

- 1. \$500,000 for the expansion of the Applied Learning Institute (ALI) for the TAA school districts of Aitkin, Crosby-Ironton, and Cook County.
- 2. Up to \$2,505,000 for a three phased investment in a collaborative STEM initiative that includes the TAA school districts of Nashwauk-Keewatin, Greenway, & Grand Rapids and post-secondary partner Itasca Community College.

Funding Authorization:

This expenditure is authorized under the provisions of the Iron Range school consolidation and cooperatively operated school account as codified under Minnesota Statutes, Section 298.28 subdivision 7a.

Exhibit A – IRRRB December 21, 2015, Meeting Minutes

IRRRB Meeting Minutes Monday, December 21, 2015 – 11:00 a.m. IRRRB Administration Building Eveleth, Minnesota

1) Roll Call

Representative Tom Anzelc, chair, called the meeting to order at approximately 11:00 a.m. Present: Representative Rob Ecklund, Representative Carly Melin, Representative Jason Metsa, Representative Dale Lueck, Senator Tom Bakk, Senator Tom Saxhaug, Senator David Tomassoni. Excused: Senator Rod Skoe. Minute Taker: Laureen Hall, Executive Aide. Also present: Mark Phillips, Commissioner; Mary Finnegan, Deputy Commissioner, Joe Radinovich, Assistant Commissioner, Al Becicka, IRRRB Legal Counsel; Steve Peterson, Executive Director of Development; Chris Ismil, Community Development Representative, Whitney Ridlon, Community Development Representative, Dan Jordan, Mineland Reclamation Supervisor, Roy Smith, Director of Workforce Development; Bob Scuffy, Accounting Director; Sheryl Kochevar, Media Coordinator; Jonathan Holmes and John Dickinson, ArcelorMittal Minorca; Sandy Karnowski, Cliffs Natural Resources; Todd Nelson, Hibbing Taconite Company & United Taconite; Jack Croswell, Hibbing Taconite Company, Scott Deming, Northshore Mining Company; Santi Romani, United Taconite LLC; Rob Bigelow and Luke Francisco, Magnetation LLC; Steve Howard, Paul Bunyan Communications.

2) Approval of the October 30, 2015, Minutes

Action required: Approval requires a simple majority of the quorum

Representative Jason Metsa moved approval of the October 30, 2015, minutes. Seconded by Representative Dale Lueck. Motion carried.

Voting in Favor of the Motion: Representative Tom Anzelc, Representative Rob Ecklund, Representative Carly Melin, Representative Jason Metsa, Representative Dale Lueck, Senator Tom Bakk, Senator Tom Saxhaug, Senator David Tomassoni

Voting Against the Motion: None

Abstain: None

Excused: Senator Rod Skoe

3) Mining Reinvestment Fund

Action required: Approval requires a simple majority of the quorum

a) ArcelorMittal Minorca – Resolution #16-012

Senator David Tomassoni moved to approve the expenditure of up to \$685,970 of Mining Reinvestment Funds to ArcleorMittal Minorca for projects as presented in Resolution #16-012. Seconded by Senator Tom Bakk. Motion carried.

Voting in Favor of the Motion: Representative Tom Anzelc, Representative Rob Ecklund, Representative Carly Melin, Representative Jason Metsa, Representative Dale Lueck, Senator Tom Bakk, Senator Tom Saxhaug, Senator David Tomassoni

Voting Against the Motion: None

Abstain: None

Excused: Senator Rod Skoe

IRON RANGE RESOURCES AND REHABILITATION BOARD OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA TACONITE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND EXPENDITURE APPROVAL: ARCELORMITTAL MINORCA – PAY 2015 MINING REINVESTMENT FUNDS

Resolution No.: 16-012

WHEREAS, taconite economic development funds ("Mining Reinvestment Funds") are made available to the Commissioner under the provisions of Minnesota Statutes Section 298.28, Subdivision 9a to provide grants to taconite producers who provide required matching expenditures for projects that involve workforce development and associated public facility improvements, or the acquisition of plant and stationary mining equipment and facilities, or the funding of research and development in Minnesota on new mining or taconite, iron, or steel production technology ("Eligible Purposes"), all in accordance with the provisions of Minnesota Statutes Section 298.227 (the "Mining Reinvestment Statute") and for the benefit of the Taconite Assistance Area defined in Minnesota Statutes Section 273.1341 ("TAA"); and,

WHEREAS, iron ore producer ArcelorMittal Minorca ("Applicant Producer") is eligible to receive up to \$685,970 of Mining Reinvestment Funds for Eligible Purposes based upon its 2014 production ("Pay 2015 Mining Reinvestment Funds"); and,

WHEREAS, Applicant Producer made application to the Commissioner to receive Mining Reinvestment Funds for projects described in the attached Addendum A (the "**Proposed Projects**"), and has committed to pay at least the required matching share of \$685,970 of the costs of the Proposed Projects which the Commissioner has determined are for Eligible Purposes; and,

WHEREAS, the Mining Reinvestment Statute provides that the Mining Reinvestment Funds available to an applicant producer for any proposed project cannot be released by the Commissioner until (a) a joint committee consisting of an equal number of representatives of the salaried employees and the non-salaried production and maintenance employees of that producer (the "Committee") has had up to six months to review the Applicant's proposal for expenditure of the Mining Reinvestment Funds, and (b) the Board has approved the Proposed Projects; and,

WHEREAS, the Committee of the Applicant Producer on December 10, 2015, indicated to the Commissioner that it has approved the Proposed Projects identified in Addendum A; and,

WHEREAS, the Board met in open session at 11:00 a.m. on December 21, 2015, at the agency's Administrative Building located near Eveleth, Minnesota, to consider the Proposed Projects and the Applicant Producer's request to receive Mining Reinvestment Funds for such projects.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED that the Board hereby approves the Proposed Projects specified in Addendum A.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY VOTE OF THE IRON RANGE RESOURCES AND REHABILITATION BOARD THIS $21^{\rm ST}$ DAY OF DECEMBER 2015.

| Member | Aye | Nay | Abstain | Excused |
|----------------------------|-----|-----|---------|---------|
| Senator Tom Bakk | X | | | |
| Senator Tom Saxhaug | X | | | |
| Senator Rod Skoe | | | | X |
| Senator David Tomassoni | X | | | |
| Representative Tom Anzelc | X | | | |
| Representative Rob Ecklund | X | | | |
| Representative Dale Lueck | X | | | |
| Representative Carly Melin | X | | | |
| Representative Jason Metsa | X | | | |
| TOTAL | 8 | 0 | 0 | 1 |

| Signed | · | |
|--------|----------------------------|-------|
| | Representative Tom Anzelc, | Chair |

Addendum A

Project 1 – Enterprise Electrical System Improvements - \$400,000

Minorca Mine maintains a pumping barge with 3 pumps in the former Enterprise/Sauntry Mine pit lakes. This pumping installation is the only source of fresh water (supplemented by water from the Mesabi Mountain pit lake) for the production process and is also the source water for the ultra-filtration system that provides the mine's potable water needs. Several water appropriation permits from the MNDNR govern these sources of fresh water.

The current electrical feed to the pumping station comes from a 13.8 kV underground cable fed by a 115 kV to 13.8 kV transformer in the Minorca main sub-station. This cable follows a circuitous path of close to 2 miles to reach the barge. It is original equipment and beyond its projected life. Several failures have occurred resulting in a loss of fresh and potable water for extended periods putting the plant at risk. This project takes advantage of the proximity of a 46 kV source of power from Minnesota Power on

the Northside of Virginia recently expanded to support Joy Global. This above ground source will be extended by a new 10-year power contract with Minnesota Power to provide 46 kV power to a new 46 kV to 4.16 kV transformer and associated electrical substation to be built and operated by Minorca mechanical and electrical employees. Besides the improvements to the reliability of this new and more maintainable power feed system the use of modern electrical control equipment will provide a safer installation for our electrical maintenance employees due to considerably reduced arc flash rating. Once completed, the existing underground electrical feed will be abandoned for future reclamation.

The MRF grant will support this important but discretionary project so that it can move forward in 2016 as part of the Minorca operating expenditures which are subject to scrutiny in the current iron and steel market.

Project 2 – Line 1 Ball Mill Major Repair - \$1,725,000

Minorca Mine has three (3) Allis Chalmers 16'6" by 36' ball mills for secondary grinding. The mills are original equipment making them close to 40 years old. Through detailed inspections a program of rehabilitation through major repairs must be done for each mill to ensure continued reliability for the remaining life of mine. Two of the three mills (Lines 2 and 3) have already been completed. This project is for the work to be completed in the annual shutdown in 2016 for Line 1. The line will be down for an extended period estimated at 20-25 days during that outage period which is planned for mid-April. The major work elements that comprise this project will be the replacement of the Line 1 mill bull gear and mill discharge head with trunnion.

The MRF funds will support this effort and allow this discretionary but critical project to proceed in the limited capital funding environment that we are experiencing. The scope of the repairs and bill of materials has been determined. Long lead items are on order. The work will be completed by a combination of Minorca maintenance employees and a local contractor experienced in this type of work. This project is expected to be completed by early May, 2016 at an estimated cost of \$1,725,000.

b) Hibbing Taconite Company – *Resolution #16-013*

Representative Carly Melin moved to approve the expenditure of up to \$1,874,526 of Mining Reinvestment Funds to Hibbing Taconite Company for projects as presented in Resolution #16-013. Seconded by Representative Jason Metsa. Motion carried.

Voting in Favor of the Motion: Representative Tom Anzelc, Representative Rob Ecklund, Representative Carly Melin, Representative Jason Metsa, Representative Dale Lueck, Senator Tom Bakk, Senator Tom Saxhaug, Senator David Tomassoni

Voting Against the Motion: None

Abstain: None

Excused: Senator Rod Skoe

IRON RANGE RESOURCES AND REHABILITATION BOARD OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA TACONITE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND EXPENDITURE APPROVAL: HIBBING TACONITE COMPANY – PAY 2015 MINING REINVESTMENT FUNDS

Resolution No.: 16-013

WHEREAS, taconite economic development funds ("Mining Reinvestment Funds") are made available to the Commissioner under the provisions of Minnesota Statutes Section 298.28, Subdivision 9a to provide grants to taconite producers who provide required matching expenditures for projects that involve workforce development and associated public facility improvements, or the acquisition of plant and stationary mining equipment and facilities, or the funding of research and development in Minnesota on new mining or taconite, iron, or steel production technology ("Eligible Purposes"), all in accordance with the provisions of Minnesota Statutes Section 298.227 (the "Mining Reinvestment Statute") and for the benefit of the Taconite Assistance Area defined in Minnesota Statutes Section 273.1341 ("TAA"); and,

WHEREAS, iron ore producer Hibbing Taconite Company ("Applicant Producer") is eligible to receive up to \$1,874,526 of Mining Reinvestment Funds for Eligible Purposes based upon its 2014 production ("Pay 2015 Mining Reinvestment Funds"); and,

WHEREAS, Applicant Producer made application to the Commissioner to receive Mining Reinvestment Funds for projects described in the attached Addendum A (the "Proposed Projects"), and has committed to pay at least the required matching share of \$1,874,526 of the costs of the Proposed Projects which the Commissioner has determined are for Eligible Purposes; and,

WHEREAS, the Mining Reinvestment Statute provides that the Mining Reinvestment Funds available to an applicant producer for any proposed project cannot be released by the Commissioner until (a) a joint committee consisting of an equal number of representatives of the salaried employees and the non-salaried production and maintenance employees of that producer (the "**Committee**") has had up to six months to review the Applicant's proposal for expenditure of the Mining Reinvestment Funds, and (b) the Board has approved the Proposed Projects; and,

WHEREAS, the Committee of the Applicant Producer on November 30, 2015, indicated to the Commissioner that it has approved the Proposed Projects identified in Addendum A; and,

WHEREAS, the Board met in open session at 11:00 a.m. on December 21, 2015, at the agency's Administrative Building located near Eveleth, Minnesota, to consider the Proposed Projects and the Applicant Producer's request to receive Mining Reinvestment Funds for such projects.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED that the Board hereby approves the Proposed Projects specified in Addendum A.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY VOTE OF THE IRON RANGE RESOURCES AND

REHABILITATION BOARD THIS 21ST DAY OF DECEMBER 2015.

| Member | Aye | Nay | Abstain | Excused |
|----------------------------|-----|-----|---------|---------|
| Senator Tom Bakk | X | | | |
| Senator Tom Saxhaug | X | | | |
| Senator Rod Skoe | | | | X |
| Senator David Tomassoni | X | | | |
| Representative Tom Anzelc | X | | | |
| Representative Rob Ecklund | X | | | |
| Representative Dale Lueck | X | | | |
| Representative Carly Melin | X | | | |
| Representative Jason Metsa | X | | | |
| TOTAL | 8 | 0 | 0 | 1 |

| Signed | • • | |
|--------|----------------------------|-------|
| | Representative Tom Anzelc. | Chair |

Addendum A

Project 1 – Continuous Emissions Monitors (CEMS) - \$3,930,000

Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) mandated plan that requires monitoring SO_2 and NO_x emissions on each of Hibbing Taconite Company's (HTC) 12 stacks that support the 3 furnaces. Continuous Emission Monitoring Systems (CEMS) provide continuous measurements of nitrogen oxide (NO_x) and sulfur dioxide (SO_2) concentrations being emitted from HTC's indurating furnaces. NOx and SO_2 are contributors to haze, which may impact visibility in Class 1 protected national parks and wilderness areas such as Voyageur's National Park and the Boundary Waters Canoe Area. The continuous measurements provide real time data to ensure that HTC is meeting SO_2 and NO_x regulatory requirements.

Project 2 – Control Systems Upgrade – Concentrator and Pellet Plant - \$648,000

The discrete control system includes programmable logic computers (PLC) which are digital computers that automate electromechanical processes such as conveyor belts, mills and furnace lines. Unlike general computers, the PLC is designed for multiple inputs and output arrangements, extended temperature ranges, immunity to electrical noise and resistance to vibration and impact. The new control system will be an upgrade to the latest technology.

c) Northshore Mining Company – *Resolution #16-014*Senator Tom Bakk moved to approve the expenditure of up to \$1,221,742 of Mining Reinvestment Funds to Northshore Mining Company for projects as presented in Resolution #16-014. Seconded by Representative Rob Ecklund. Motion carried.

Voting in Favor of the Motion: Representative Tom Anzelc, Representative Rob Ecklund, Representative Carly Melin, Representative Jason Metsa, Representative Dale Lueck, Senator Tom Bakk, Senator Tom Saxhaug, Senator David Tomassoni

Voting Against the Motion: None

Abstain: None

Excused: Senator Rod Skoe

IRON RANGE RESOURCES AND REHABILITATION BOARD OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA TACONITE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND EXPENDITURE APPROVAL: NORTHSHORE MINING COMPANY – PAY 2015 MINING REINVESTMENT FUNDS

Resolution No.: 16-014

WHEREAS, taconite economic development funds ("Mining Reinvestment Funds") are made available to the Commissioner under the provisions of Minnesota Statutes Section 298.28, Subdivision 9a to provide grants to taconite producers who provide required matching expenditures for projects that involve workforce development and associated public facility improvements, or the acquisition of plant and stationary mining equipment and facilities, or the funding of research and development in Minnesota on new mining or taconite, iron, or steel production technology ("Eligible Purposes"), all in accordance with the provisions of Minnesota Statutes Section 298.227 (the "Mining Reinvestment Statute") and for the benefit of the Taconite Assistance Area defined in Minnesota Statutes Section 273.1341 ("TAA"); and,

WHEREAS, iron ore producer Northshore Mining Company ("Applicant Producer") is eligible to receive up to \$1,221,742 of Mining Reinvestment Funds for Eligible Purposes based upon its 2014 production ("Pay 2015 Mining Reinvestment Funds"); and,

WHEREAS, Applicant Producer made application to the Commissioner to receive Mining Reinvestment Funds for projects described in the attached Addendum A (the "Proposed Projects"), and has committed to pay at least the required matching share of \$1,221,742 of the costs of the Proposed Projects which the Commissioner has determined are for Eligible Purposes; and,

WHEREAS, the Mining Reinvestment Statute provides that the Mining Reinvestment Funds available to an applicant producer for any proposed project cannot be released by the Commissioner until (a) a joint committee consisting of an equal number of representatives of the salaried employees and the non-salaried production and maintenance employees of that producer (the "Committee") has had up to six months to review the Applicant's proposal for expenditure of the Mining Reinvestment Funds, and (b) the Board has approved the Proposed Projects; and,

WHEREAS, the Committee of the Applicant Producer on November 23, 2015, indicated to the Commissioner that it has approved the Proposed Projects identified in Addendum A; and,

WHEREAS, the Board met in open session at 11:00 a.m. on December 21, 2015, at the agency's Administrative Building located near Eveleth, Minnesota, to consider the Proposed Projects and the Applicant Producer's request to receive Mining Reinvestment Funds for such projects.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED that the Board hereby approves the Proposed Projects specified in Addendum A.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY VOTE OF THE IRON RANGE RESOURCES AND REHABILITATION BOARD THIS $21^{\rm ST}$ DAY OF DECEMBER 2015.

| Member | Aye | Nay | Abstain | Excused |
|----------------------------|-----|-----|---------|---------|
| Senator Tom Bakk | X | | | |
| Senator Tom Saxhaug | X | | | |
| Senator Rod Skoe | | | | X |
| Senator David Tomassoni | X | | | |
| Representative Tom Anzelc | X | | | |
| Representative Rob Ecklund | X | | | |
| Representative Dale Lueck | X | | | |
| Representative Carly Melin | X | | | |
| Representative Jason Metsa | X | | | |
| TOTAL | 8 | 0 | 0 | 1 |

| Signed: | | | | |
|---------|------------------|-----|---------|-------|
| _ | Representative ' | Tom | Anzelc. | Chair |

Addendum A

Project 1 – Direct Reduced (DR) Grade Pellets (Low Silica Project Test) – Engineering - \$1,629,467

The initial Feasibility Study, completed in August 2013, concluded that DR Grade pellet production at Northshore could be economically viable if a customer base/partner could be secured. Iron/weight recovery is vastly improved under the scheme of operating the plant with two products simultaneously being produced and operating a scavenger recovery system. The iron recovery improvement significantly reduces the increase of operating costs related to iron losses and overall plant upstream volume impacts. The full scale pellet production test conducted in March 2013 produced pellets that will meet the DR Grade requirements for a product to use in commercial DRI machines. Detail engineering has been completed as of the end of April 2015.

It is recommended partial equipment be installed to allow production of a customer trial up to 200,000 long tons of DR Grade pellets. This includes the installation of conveyor 60C, shuttle conveyor 61, and the reactivation/modification of Section 12 finisher hydro. The work on the finisher hydro is needed to stabilize the filtering operation for the trial and is not required for the commercial operation. All other portions of the install are part of the overall DR Grade pellet project.

Project 2 – Unit 1 Low NO_x Burners – \$3,206,000

The project is the installation of the Low NO_x burners and over fired air equipment to reduce the nitrous oxide emissions at the Silver Bay Power Plant. The CFD (computational fluid dynamics) modeling has been completed for the project which has enabled preliminary design of the coal and gas burners plus the sizing and location of the over fired air ports. Performance guarantees have been calculated and submitted for the anticipated emission levels after completing the modifications. The project is mandated by air quality regulatory changes that require reductions in the emissions of NO_x. Since NO_x reduction can potentially increase the carbon monoxide emissions, the addition of over fired air ports is required to maintain the CO emissions at low levels. Programming and wiring changes will also have to be implemented on the boiler combustion and burner management controls to support the installation.

The project is expected to reduce NO_x emission from the combustion process of burning sub-bituminous coal to produce electric energy at the Silver Bay Power Plant. The results from the project installation will be directly measurable on the stack Continuous Emissions Monitoring System (CEMS) that provides real time NO_x emission data. Boiler operation procedures will be modified to assure compliance with the NO_x operating limits.

Background:

- National Ambient Air Quality (NAAQS) Northshore has conducted air dispersion models around the emission rates the Low NO_x burners are guaranteed to perform
- Best Available Retrofit Technology (BART) while agency is forced to reevaluate the assessment of BART for the power plant in light of federal court issues, the performance of these burners surpasses what the agency assessed as a BART limit in its prior determination.
- Cross State Air Pollution (CSAPR) no limits, but rather pay for emission credits

d) United Taconite LLC - Resolution #16-015

Senator David Tomassoni moved to approve the expenditure of up to \$1,304,747 of Mining Reinvestment Funds to United Taconite LLC for projects as presented in Resolution #16-015. Seconded by Representative Jason Metsa. Motion carried.

Voting in Favor of the Motion: Representative Tom Anzelc, Representative Rob Ecklund, Representative Carly Melin, Representative Jason Metsa, Representative Dale Lueck, Senator Tom Bakk, Senator Tom Saxhaug, Senator David Tomassoni

Voting Against the Motion: None

Abstain: None

Excused: Senator Rod Skoe

IRON RANGE RESOURCES AND REHABILITATION BOARD OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA TACONITE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND EXPENDITURE APPROVAL: UNITED TACONITE, LLC – PAY 2015 MINING REINVESTMENT FUNDS

Resolution No.: 16-015

WHEREAS, taconite economic development funds ("Mining Reinvestment Funds") are made available to the Commissioner under the provisions of Minnesota Statutes Section 298.28, Subdivision 9a to provide grants to taconite producers who provide required matching expenditures for projects that involve workforce development and associated public facility improvements, or the acquisition of plant and stationary mining equipment and facilities, or the funding of research and development in Minnesota on new mining or taconite, iron, or steel production technology ("Eligible Purposes"), all in accordance with the provisions of Minnesota Statutes Section 298.227 (the "Mining Reinvestment Statute") and for the benefit of the Taconite Assistance Area defined in Minnesota Statutes Section 273.1341 ("TAA"); and,

WHEREAS, iron ore producer United Taconite, LLC ("Applicant Producer") is eligible to receive up to \$1,304,747 of Mining Reinvestment Funds for Eligible Purposes based upon its 2014 production ("Pay 2015 Mining Reinvestment Funds"); and,

WHEREAS, Applicant Producer made application to the Commissioner to receive Mining Reinvestment Funds for projects described in the attached Addendum A (the "Proposed Projects"), and has committed to pay at least the required matching share of \$1,304,747 of the costs of the Proposed Projects which the Commissioner has determined are for Eligible Purposes; and,

WHEREAS, the Mining Reinvestment Statute provides that the Mining Reinvestment Funds available to an applicant producer for any proposed project cannot be released by the Commissioner until (a) a joint committee consisting of an equal number of representatives of the salaried employees and the non-salaried production and maintenance employees of that producer (the "**Committee**") has had up to six months to review the Applicant's proposal for expenditure of the Mining Reinvestment Funds, and (b) the Board has approved the Proposed Projects; and,

WHEREAS, the Committee of the Applicant Producer on December 7, 2015, indicated to the Commissioner that it has approved the Proposed Projects identified in Addendum A; and,

WHEREAS, the Board met in open session at 11:00 a.m. on December 21, 2015, at the agency's Administrative Building located near Eveleth, Minnesota, to consider the Proposed Projects and the Applicant Producer's request to receive Mining Reinvestment Funds for such projects.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED that the Board hereby approves the Proposed Projects specified in Addendum A.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY VOTE OF THE IRON RANGE RESOURCES AND

REHABILITATION BOARD THIS 21ST DAY OF DECEMBER 2015.

| Member | Aye | Nay | Abstain | Excused |
|----------------------------|-----|-----|---------|---------|
| Senator Tom Bakk | X | | | |
| Senator Tom Saxhaug | X | | | |
| Senator Rod Skoe | | | | X |
| Senator David Tomassoni | X | | | |
| Representative Tom Anzelc | X | | | |
| Representative Rob Ecklund | X | | | |
| Representative Dale Lueck | X | | | |
| Representative Carly Melin | X | | | |
| Representative Jason Metsa | X | | | |
| TOTAL | 8 | 0 | 0 | 1 |

| Signed | • • | |
|--------|----------------------------|-------|
| | Representative Tom Anzelc, | Chair |

Addendum A

Project 1 – Dust Collectors - \$1,500,000

United Taconite operates 50 dust collectors at the Fairlane Plant. To maintain compliance with Federal and State air quality regulations, United Taconite has developed a multi-year replacement plan starting with 5C and 4C in the crusher, 4 and 5 Rod Mill Feed and the South Transfer House. The existing 5C, 4C and South Transfer House collectors utilize wet collection and will be replaced with dry filtration collectors to optimize indoor air quality. Dry filtration uses filter media to capture dust. The dust builds on the exterior of the filter and is periodically blown/discharged out the bottom of the collector. The 4 & 5 Rod Mill Feed collectors will continue to utilize wet collection which uses water to capture dust.

Project 2 – Pre-Mix Binder Addition - \$575,000

United Taconite uses an organic binder to form green balls prior to the grate/kiln/cooler machine. The binder is then mixed with soda ash at a set ratio that is critical to green ball quality and overall pellet quality. The existing system requires the unloading of trucks of soda ash and binder into separate bins. United Taconite will change to a pre-mixed binder product which will convert the current binder addition system from two separate products and loading points to a pre-mix product with one addition point.

Project 3 – Plant Equipment Guarding - \$900,000

Update guarding on processing equipment to exceed MSHA regulations. United Taconite has developed a phased plan over three years that started in late 2013. Phase 1 covers the Concentrator with upgrades to the grinding mills, magnetic separators and rod mill feed conveyors. Phase 2 covers the Pellet Plant with upgrades to the balling circuits, grate,

kilns, cooler and conveyors in the Concentrator. Phase 3 covers the Coarse and Fine Crushers, conveyors and support equipment.

e) Magnetation LLC – *Resolution #16-016*

Representative Jason Metsa moved to *Table* Resolution #16-016 regarding the expenditure of Mining Reinvestment Funds to Magnetation LLC for projects presented in Resolution #16-016 in an amount not to exceed \$736,349. Senator Tom Bakk moved to amend the Metsa motion to add Table "until the next IRRR Board meeting," allowing the company to come back to the IRRR Board with more information at its next meeting. Representative Metsa accepted the Bakk amendment. Board Chair Anzelc asked for a roll call of the vote, as indicated below. Seven yes votes, one no vote, one absent. Motion carried.

Voting in Favor of the Motion: Representative Rob Ecklund, Representative Carly Melin, Representative Jason Metsa, Representative Dale Lueck, Senator Tom Bakk, Senator Tom Saxhaug, Senator David Tomassoni

Voting Against the Motion: Representative Tom Anzelc

Abstain: None

Excused: Senator Rod Skoe

RESOLUTION 16-016 WAS TABLED AT THE DECEMBER 21, 2015, IRRRB MEETING, UNTIL THE NEXT MEETING OF THE IRRR BOARD

IRON RANGE RESOURCES AND REHABILITATION BOARD
OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA
TACONITE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FUND EXPENDITURE APPROVAL:
MAGNETATION LLC – PAY 2015 MINING REINVESTMENT FUNDS

Resolution No.: 16-016

WHEREAS, taconite economic development funds ("Mining Reinvestment Funds") are made available to the Commissioner under the provisions of Minnesota Statutes Section 298.28, Subdivision 9a to provide grants to taconite producers who provide required matching expenditures for projects that involve workforce development and associated public facility improvements, or the acquisition of plant and stationary mining equipment and facilities, or the funding of research and development in Minnesota on new mining or taconite, iron, or steel production technology ("Eligible Purposes"), all in accordance with the provisions of Minnesota Statutes Section 298.227 (the "Mining Reinvestment Statute") and for the benefit of the Taconite Assistance Area defined in Minnesota Statutes Section 273.1341 ("TAA"); and,

WHEREAS, iron ore producer Magnetation LLC ("Applicant Producer") is eligible to receive up to \$736,349 of Mining Reinvestment Funds for Eligible Purposes based upon its 2014 production ("Pay 2015 Mining Reinvestment Funds"); and,

WHEREAS, Applicant Producer made application to the Commissioner to receive Mining Reinvestment Funds for the project described in the attached Addendum A (the "**Proposed Project**"), and has committed to pay at least the required matching share of \$736,349 of the costs of the Proposed Project which the Commissioner has determined is for Eligible Purposes; and,

WHEREAS, the Mining Reinvestment Statute provides that the Mining Reinvestment Funds available to an applicant producer for any proposed project cannot be released by the Commissioner until (a) a joint committee consisting of an equal number of representatives of the salaried employees and the non-salaried production and maintenance employees of that producer (the "Committee") has had up to six months to review the Applicant's proposal for expenditure of the Mining Reinvestment Funds, and (b) the Board has approved the Proposed Projects; and.

WHEREAS, the Committee of the Applicant Producer on December 9, 2015, indicated to the Commissioner that it has approved the Proposed Project identified in Addendum A; and,

WHEREAS, the Board met in open session at 11:00 a.m. on December 21, 2015, at the agency's Administrative Building located near Eveleth, Minnesota, to consider the Proposed Project and the Applicant Producer's request to receive Mining Reinvestment Funds for such project.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED that the Board hereby approves the Proposed Project specified in Addendum A.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY VOTE OF THE IRON RANGE RESOURCES AND REHABILITATION BOARD THIS 21ST DAY OF DECEMBER 2015.

| Member | Aye | Nay | Abstain | Excused |
|----------------------------|-----|-----|---------|---------|
| Senator Tom Bakk | | | | |
| Senator Tom Saxhaug | | | | |
| Senator Rod Skoe | | | | |
| Senator David Tomassoni | | | | |
| Representative Tom Anzelc | | | | |
| Representative Rob Ecklund | | | | |
| Representative Dale Lueck | | | | |
| Representative Carly Melin | | | | |
| Representative Jason Metsa | | | | |
| TOTAL | | | | |

| Signed: | | |
|---------|----------------------------------|---|
| | Representative Tom Anzelc, Chair | r |

Addendum A

Project 1 – Plant 4 Flotation Circuit (Bank 1) - \$1,540,966

This project will involve the purchase and installation of flotation bank #1 in Plant 4. This flotation bank will process WHIMS (Wet High Intensity Magnetic Separator) concentrate. The flotation is performed at a neutral pH of 7, which makes the process environmentally friendly and safe. The flotation cells allow for higher magnetic circuit recoveries – to produce iron ore concentrate and simultaneously reduce the silica percentage. This factor enhances the product's marketability and enables the plant to effectively process feed from a variety of diverse resources.

4) FY16 Development Infrastructure Projects – Resolution #16-017

Action required: Approval requires a simple majority of the quorum

Senator Tom Saxhaug moved to approve the expenditure of TEFP Public Works Funds for certain community and economic development projects not to exceed \$1,650,000 as presented in Resolution #16-017. Seconded by Representative Jason Metsa. Motion carried.

Voting in Favor of the Motion: Representative Tom Anzelc, Representative Rob Ecklund, Representative Carly Melin, Representative Jason Metsa, Representative Dale Lueck, Senator Tom Bakk, Senator Tom Saxhaug, Senator David Tomassoni

Voting Against the Motion: None

Abstain: None

Excused: Senator Rod Skoe

IRON RANGE RESOURCES AND REHABILITATION BOARD OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA PUBLIC WORKS PROJECT APPROVALS

Resolution No.: 16-017

WHEREAS, the Commissioner is authorized to expend, upon approval of the Board, the Taconite Area Environmental Protection Fund monies made available under Minnesota Statutes Section 298.223 ("**TEPF Funds**") to promote the economic development of the Taconite Assistance Area designated in Minnesota Statutes Section 273.1341 ("**TAA**"), by investing in local economic development projects within the TAA; and

WHEREAS, the agency's approved fiscal year 2016 ("FY16") Budget includes the allocation of up to \$6,000,000 for public works projects from TEPF Funds ("**TEPF Public Works Funds**") of which \$3,939,000 has already been obligated for projects by prior Board actions, leaving \$2,061,000 that has not yet been approved by the Board for expenditure during FY16; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner has received proposals for the expenditure of up to \$1,650,000 of such TEPF Public Works Funds for those certain community and economic development projects that are more specifically described in Exhibit A, which is attached hereto and incorporated by reference ("**Proposed Projects**"); and

WHEREAS, the Board met in open session at 11:00 a.m. on December 21, 2015, in the agency's Administrative Building located near Eveleth, Minnesota, to consider, among other matters, the Proposed Projects and has determined that the expenditure of the following amounts of TEPF Funds for the purposes and in the amounts specified below would be in the public interest and promote economic development within the TAA.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED, that the Board hereby approves the expenditure of up to \$1,650,000 of FY16 TEPF Public Works Funds to provide grants for the Proposed Projects in the amounts and for the purposes set forth in Exhibit A.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board's approval for the expenditure of FY16 TEPF Public Works Funds for all Proposed Projects, including those Proposed Projects which have associated private development work, is contingent upon the agency, in its grant contracts,

requiring each such grantee entity to commit to the payment of prevailing wages for the funded project as required by law, or to the extent required in the Board's Resolution 96-005.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board's approval for the expenditure of FY16 TEPF Public Works Funds for the Proposed Projects is further contingent upon all such project financing being in place before the agency's funds are released.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY VOTE OF THE IRON RANGE RESOURCES AND REHABILITATION BOARD THIS 21st DAY OF DECEMBER 2015.

| Member | Aye | Nay | Abstain | Excused |
|----------------------------|-----|-----|---------|---------|
| Senator Tom Bakk | X | | | |
| Senator Tom Saxhaug | X | | | |
| Senator Rod Skoe | | | | X |
| Senator David Tomassoni | X | | | |
| Representative Tom Anzelc | X | | | |
| Representative Rob Ecklund | X | | | |
| Representative Dale Lueck | X | | | |
| Representative Carly Melin | X | | | |
| Representative Jason Metsa | X | | | |
| TOTAL | 8 | 0 | 0 | 1 |

| Signed: | | |
|---------|----------------------------|-------|
| | Representative Tom Anzelc, | Chair |

City of Babbitt

Grant Amount: \$200,000

Construction of a new access road, storm sewer, and landing lot. The city is working with the DNR to redevelop the Babbitt recreation and boat landing area on Birch Lake. The lot and landing area have experienced deterioration and the area is experiencing environmental issues due to erosion of the roadside ditches. The run-off pollution entering the lake will now be captured by a new storm sewer system and rain garden. The improvements will also include new docks and boat landing aprons. The project is projected to create 4 construction jobs.

| <u>USES</u> | | | SUURCES | | |
|------------------|-------|-----------|-----------------|-------|-----------|
| Site Development | | \$444,487 | IRRRB | | \$200,000 |
| A&E | | 93,342 | City of Babbitt | | 216,726 |
| Contingency | | 88,897 | SLC | | 50,000 |
| | | | SPRA | | 150,000 |
| | | | DNR | | 10,000 |
| | TOTAL | \$626,726 | | TOTAL | \$626,726 |

City of Cohasset

Grant Amount: \$300,000

Facility modifications and health and safety upgrades. The project facilitates the expansion of MDI through the purchase of the Technimar Building and property in Cohasset. MDI will use 60,000 sq. feet in the new facility for expansion of existing and new lines of business. MDI will use 10,000 sq. feet in the new facility to develop an occupational skills training center for the region. The business expansion is projected to create 20 permanent jobs and 22 construction jobs.

| <u>USES</u> | | <u>SOURCES</u> | | |
|------------------------|-------------|----------------|-------|-------------|
| Land /Facility | \$2,500,000 | IRRRB | | \$300,000 |
| Building modifications | 300,000 | MDI | | 1,500,000 |
| DRHH relocation | 200,000 | Terex | | 500,000 |
| DRHH equipment | 300,000 | Blandin | | 1,000,000 |
| TOTAL | \$3,300,000 | | TOTAL | \$3,300,000 |

Cook County

Grant Amount: \$100,000

TICEC

Phase II Cook County Airport runway extension and widening project consists of the extension and the expansion of the current runway from 4,200 feet to 5,000 feet. The extension and widening will enable large wild fire fighting aircraft, all weather medical evacuation aircraft, and larger multi-function commercial and private aircraft. The project is projected to create 19 construction jobs.

| <u>USES</u> | | <u>SOURCES</u> | |
|-----------------------|-------------|---------------------|-------------|
| Runway reconstruction | \$2,311,926 | IRRRB | \$100,00 |
| A&E | 590,000 | Cook County Airport | 45,096 |
| | | MNDOT | 145,096 |
| | | FAA | 2,611,734 |
| TOTAL | \$2,901,926 | TOTAL | \$2,901,926 |

Fairview Range

Grant Amount: \$250,000

TICEC

Construction and remodel of the Fairview Range Behavioral Health Unit. Fairview Range is expanding their Behavioral Health Unit from 19 beds to a 34-bed unit. Lack of available beds has put a substantial health, safety, and financial burden on the hospital and local law enforcement. Currently, there is a shortage for these services statewide with an emphasis on impatient acute psychiatric beds. The project is projected to create 20 permanent jobs and 3 construction jobs.

| <u>USES</u> | | SOURCES | | |
|----------------------|-----------|----------------|-------|-----------|
| Construction remodel | 538,710 | IRRRB | | \$250,000 |
| A&E | 35,000 | Fairview Range | | 414,485 |
| Contingency | 90,775 | | | |
| TOTAL | \$664,485 | | TOTAL | \$664,485 |

COLIDCES

City of Grand Rapids Grant Amount: \$300,000

Water, sewer, utilities extension, and site work for construction of a new 16,200 sq. ft. Kiesler Health and Wellness Center. The center and its staff will help provide essential mental health/rehabilitative services. These services go beyond improving mental health to include increased employment for persons with disabilities, decreased reliance on social services, and reduced poverty. The project is projected to create 16 permanent jobs and 28 construction jobs.

| <u>USES</u> | | <u>SOURCES</u> | |
|------------------------------|-------------|----------------------|-------------|
| Water, sewer and roads | 521,400 | IRRRB | \$300,000 |
| A&E | 318,850 | Blandin | 1,000,000 |
| Land | 544,000 | City of Grand Rapids | 300,000 |
| Facility Renovation/Addition | 2,858,000 | Kiesler House | 2,642,250 |
| TOTAL | \$4,242,250 | TOTAL | \$4,242,250 |

Lutsen Township

Grant Amount: \$300,000

The Phase II portion of the project is comprised of erosion control and clearing, mass grading, drainage, reconstruction of greens, grassing, and a landscaping and irrigation system at the Superior National Golf Course. Eighty percent of business in Cook County is tourism. The project is expected to create 33 construction jobs.

| <u>USES</u> | | <u>SOURCES</u> | | |
|--------------------------|-------------|----------------|-------|-------------|
| Golf course construction | \$4,456,401 | IRRRB | | \$300,000 |
| A & E | 378,316 | Cook County | | 4,537,456 |
| Contingency | 302,739 | IRRRB (FY14) | | 300,000 |
| TOTAL | \$5,137,456 | | TOTAL | \$5,137,456 |

COLIDATE

Morse Township

Grant Amount: \$100,000

Phase II road and site development for a new emergency services facility. This is a collaborative facility between Town of Fall Lake and Town of Morse. The project is expected to create 2 construction jobs.

| <u>USES</u> | | <u>SOURCES</u> | |
|-------------------------|-----------|--------------------|-----------|
| Road & site development | \$120,000 | IRRRB | \$100,000 |
| Building | 770,000 | Morse Township | 400,000 |
| A&E | 10,000 | Fall Lake Township | 400,000 |
| TOTAL | \$900,000 | TOTAL | \$900,000 |

*Grant Amendment

City of Biwabik

Grant Amount: \$150,000 **Grant Amendment:** + \$100,000

Replacement of water, sewer, storm sewer, and roads on 4th Avenue North, and adjacent alley and parking lot. Road reconstruction for 2nd Avenue South, 2nd Avenue North, 3rd Avenue North, and 1st Street South. The City is requesting the FY15 \$150,000 IRRRB grant award be increased to \$250,000, which is the original application request. The project was funded at a reduced grant of \$150,000, due to lack of available IRRRB funds. In addition, the city has expanded their project from a \$783,000 project to a \$5.5 million project to be completed in 2016. The project is expected to create 36 construction jobs.

| <u>USES</u> | | <u>SOURCES</u> | | |
|-----------------------|-------------|-----------------|-------|-------------|
| Street Reconstruction | 5,000,000 | IRRRB | | \$250,000 |
| A&E | 500,000 | City of Biwabik | | 5,250,000 |
| TOTAL | \$5,500,000 | | TOTAL | \$5,500,000 |

5) FY16 Broadband Infrastructure Project – Resolution #16-018

Action required: Approval requires an affirmative vote by 6 members

Senator Tom Saxhaug moved to approve the expenditure of up to \$1,265,232 of DJJ 20% Corpus Funds as part of a \$5,550,360 project to provide broadband service for large portions of the townships of Balsam, Lawrence, Nashwauk and the former Iron Range as presented in Resolution #16-018. Seconded by Representative Carly Melin. Motion carried.

Voting in Favor of the Motion: Representative Tom Anzelc, Representative Rob Ecklund, Representative Carly Melin, Representative Jason Metsa, Representative Dale Lueck, Senator Tom Saxhaug, Senator David Tomassoni

Voting Against the Motion: Senator Tom Bakk

Abstain: None

Excused: Senator Rod Skoe

IRON RANGE RESOURCES AND REHABILITATION BOARD OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA BROADBAND PROJECT

Resolution No.: 16-018

WHEREAS, Minnesota Statutes Section 298.296, Subdivision 2 (c) entitles the Commissioner to expend, within or for the benefit of the Taconite Assistance Area as defined in Minnesota Statutes Section 273.1341 ("TAA") and upon prior approval by the affirmative vote of at least six members of the Board, up to 20% of the corpus of the Douglas J Johnson Economic Protection Trust Fund, valued as of the date of May 18, 2002, plus certain additional accrual sums (the "DJJ 20% Corpus Funds"), for projects and programs described in Minnesota Statutes Section 298.292, subdivision 1 that either (a) are designed to create and maintain productive, permanent, skilled employment, including employment in technologically innovative businesses; or (b) encourage diversification of the economy and promote the development of certain sectors of the TAA economy, specifically including tourism; and

WHEREAS, the amount of DJJ 20% Corpus Funds available for expenditure as of December 21, 2015, is the sum of \$4,441,577; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner has proposed for Board approval the expenditure of up to \$1,265,232 of DJJ 20% Corpus Funds as part of a \$5,550,360 project to provide broadband service for large portions of the townships of Balsam, Lawrence, Nashwauk and the former Iron Range, which are all located within the TAA ("Broadband Project"), as more fully described in the board packet materials, which are attached as Exhibit A; and

WHEREAS, the Board met in open session starting at 11:00 a.m. on December 21, 2015, at the agency's Administration Building near Eveleth, Minnesota, to consider, among other matters, the proposed expenditure of up to \$1,265,232 of DJJ 20% Corpus Fund monies for the Broadband Project, and has determined that such expenditure would be in the public interest and promote economic development and long-term employment within the TAA.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED that the Board hereby approves the expenditure of up to \$1,265,232 of the DJJ 20% Corpus Fund monies for the Broadband Project.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY VOTE OF THE IRON RANGE RESOURCES AND REHABILITATION BOARD THIS $21^{\rm ST}$ DAY OF DECEMBER 2015.

| Member | Aye | Nay | Abstain | Excused |
|----------------------------|-----|-----|---------|---------|
| Senator Tom Bakk | | X | | |
| Senator Tom Saxhaug | X | | | |
| Senator Rod Skoe | | | | X |
| Senator David Tomassoni | X | | | |
| Representative Tom Anzelc | X | | | |
| Representative Rob Ecklund | X | | | |
| Representative Dale Lueck | X | | | |
| Representative Carly Melin | X | | | |
| Representative Jason Metsa | X | | | |
| TOTAL | 7 | 1 | 0 | 1 |

| Signed: | |
|---------|----------------------------------|
| _ | Representative Tom Anzelc, Chair |

6) Other

a) Lonza, Inc. – Resolution #16-019

Action required: Approval requires an affirmative vote by a simple majority of the quorum

Senator Tom Saxhaug moved to approve that the agency negotiate a new lease with Lonza, Inc. with terms that provide Lonza with incentives to make ongoing capital investments in the building to enable Lonza to maintain the AG manufacturing facility as well as an option to purchase the building and assume the ground lease as presented in Resolution #16-019. Seconded by Representative Rob Ecklund. Motion carried.

Voting in Favor of the Motion: Representative Tom Anzelc, Representative Rob Ecklund, Representative Carly Melin, Representative Jason Metsa, Representative Dale Lueck, Senator Tom Bakk, Senator Tom Saxhaug, Senator David Tomassoni

Voting Against the Motion: None

Abstain: None

Excused: Senator Rod Skoe

IRON RANGE RESOURCES AND REHABILITATION BOARD OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA LONZA PROJECT

Resolution No.: 16-019

WHEREAS, in 1995 the agency acquired, pursuant to Board approval, a 20,000 square foot building and a ninety-nine year ground lease located in Cohasset, within the Taconite Assistance Area as defined under Minnesota Statutes Section 273.1341 (TAA), for \$1,200,000 from a subsidiary of Minnesota Power which was leased to Larex, Inc., (Larex) for the purpose of

developing a manufacturing facility that processes tamarack trees to extract arabinogalactan (AG), an additive product used in human and nutrition products, personal care and industrial products; and

WHEREAS, in 2006 Larex was purchased by Lonza, Inc., a U.S. subsidiary of the Lonza Group (Lonza), which has headquarters in Basel, Switzerland, and the agency subsequently agreed to the assignment of the lease from Larex to Lonza, which has continued operating the AG manufacturing facility and currently has 16 full-time employees working at the facility; and

WHEREAS, total lease payments for the building received by the agency to date equal \$1,183,800; and

WHEREAS, the lease to Lonza will expire on September 30, 2016, and Lonza has indicated that it is interested in leasing the building for up to an additional ten year term with an option to purchase the building for its appraised value at the time the new lease is commenced; and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner is proposing that the agency negotiate a new lease with Lonza with terms that provide Lonza with incentives to make ongoing capital investments in the building to enable Lonza to maintain the AG manufacturing facility as well as an option to purchase the building and assume the ground lease (Lonza Project); and

WHEREAS, the agency, pursuant to Minnesota Statutes Section 298.22, subdivision 5, and in conjunction with the Minnesota Department of Administration, has the authority, upon the Board's consideration and approval of projects as provided under Minnesota Statutes Section 298.22, subdivision 1a, to enter into a new long-term lease with Lonza that may include a conveyance of the building and assignment of the ground lease to Lonza consistent with such statutory provisions; and

WHEREAS, the Board met in open session starting at 11:00 a.m. on December 21, 2015, at the agency's Administration Building near Eveleth, Minnesota, to consider, among other matters, the proposed Lonza Project, and has determined approval of such project would be in the public interest and promote economic development within the TAA.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS RESOLVED, that the Board hereby approves the Lonza Project pursuant to the information and discussion presented at the Board meeting and encourages the agency to negotiate creative lease terms to ensure the long-term viability of Lonza's AG manufacturing operation in Cohasset.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY VOTE OF THE IRON RANGE RESOURCES AND REHABILITATION BOARD THIS $21^{\rm ST}$ DAY OF DECEMBER 2015.

| Member | Aye | Nay | Abstain | Excused |
|----------------------------|-----|-----|---------|---------|
| Senator Tom Bakk | X | | | |
| Senator Tom Saxhaug | X | | | |
| Senator Rod Skoe | | | | X |
| Senator David Tomassoni | X | | | |
| Representative Tom Anzelc | X | | | |
| Representative Rob Ecklund | X | | | |
| Representative Dale Lueck | X | | | |
| Representative Carly Melin | X | | | |
| Representative Jason Metsa | X | | | |
| TOTAL | 8 | 0 | 0 | 1 |

| Signed: | | |
|---------|--------------------------------|----|
| | Representative Tom Anzelc, Cha | ir |

b) FY16 Budget Amendment (BER Program) – Resolution #16-020

Action required: Approval requires an affirmative vote by a simple majority of the quorum

Senator Tom Bakk moved to approve an amendment to the FY16 Budget to allow the agency to operate the Business Energy Retrofit (BER) Program with more flexibility than provided in the FY16 Budget as presented in Resolution #16-020. Seconded by Senator Tom Saxhaug. Motion carried.

Voting in Favor of the Motion: Representative Tom Anzelc, Representative Rob Ecklund, Representative Jason Metsa, Representative Dale Lueck, Senator Tom Bakk, Senator Tom Saxhaug

Voting Against the Motion: Senator David Tomassoni, Representative Carly Melin

Abstain: None

Excused: Senator Rod Skoe

IRON RANGE RESOURCES AND REHABILITATION BOARD OF THE STATE OF MINNESOTA FISCAL YEAR 2016 AGENCY BUDGET AMENDMENT APPROVAL

Resolution No. 16-20

WHEREAS, the Board and Governor have previously approved a Fiscal Year 2016 ("**FY16**") agency budget pursuant to the provisions of Minnesota Statutes Section 298.22, Subd. 11, for the funding of the operational expenditures, programs and projects of the agency, which covered the period of time from July 1, 2015, through June 30, 2016 (the "**FY16 Budget**"); and

WHEREAS, the Commissioner has requested the Board approve an amendment to the FY16 Budget to allow the agency to operate the Business Energy Retrofit (BER) Program with more flexibility than provided in the FY16 Budget, specifically that the BER Program narrative on page seven of the FY16 Budget be deleted in its entirety and replaced with the following:

Business Energy Retrofit - \$750,000

The Business Energy Retrofit (BER) Program assists business owners with clean energy improvements to their buildings by delivering technical expertise, project management, and grants for 1/3 of project costs up to \$20,000.

(the "Proposed Budget Amendment"); and

WHEREAS, the Board met in open session starting at 11:00 a.m. on December 21, 2015, at the agency's Administration Building near Eveleth, Minnesota, to consider, among other matters, the Proposed Budget Amendment and determined that amending the FY16 Budget as proposed would be in the best interest of the agency.

NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY RESOLVED, that the Board approves the Proposed Budget Amendment as provided herein.

PASSED AND ADOPTED BY VOTE OF THE IRON RANGE RESOURCES AND REHABILITATION BOARD THIS 21st DAY OF DECEMBER 2015.

| Member | Aye | Nay | Abstain | Excused |
|----------------------------|-----|-----|---------|---------|
| Senator Tom Bakk | X | | | |
| Senator Tom Saxhaug | X | | | |
| Senator Rod Skoe | | | | X |
| Senator David Tomassoni | | X | | |
| Representative Tom Anzelc | X | | | |
| Representative Rob Ecklund | X | | | |
| Representative Dale Lueck | X | | | |
| Representative Carly Melin | | X | | |
| Representative Jason Metsa | X | | | |
| TOTAL | 6 | 2 | 0 | 1 |

| Signed: | | |
|---------|----------------------------|-------|
| | Representative Tom Anzelc. | Chair |

7) Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 12:47 p.m.